The Crab's Birthday Surprise
Ebru Mina TOMURCUK

The Crab's Birthday Surprise

Ebru Mina TOMURCUK

In the big blue ocean, where sunlight danced on the waves, lived a small crab with a coral-red shell. His name was Crab, and he had two friendly black bead eyes on short stalks. He carried a tiny woven seagrass satchel across his shell, filled with pretty seashells. Crab loved to explore the sandy bottom and say hello to everyone he met.

Not far away, tucked between soft green sea plants, lived Anemone. Anemone was shy, with pink and lavender tentacles that curled inward when he felt nervous. His dark blue eyes peeked out near his base. He liked quiet places and soft sounds. When too many fish swam by, he would shrink down and wait for the calm to return.

Crab and Anemone were best friends. Every morning, Crab would scuttle over to say hello. 'Good morning, Anemone,' he would say softly. Anemone would wave one gentle tentacle. They would watch the little fish together and enjoy the peaceful water. Crab noticed that Anemone was happiest when things were calm and quiet.

One day, Crab remembered something important. Tomorrow was Anemone's birthday! Crab wanted to give his friend a special day. But he knew Anemone did not like loud, busy parties. 'A big party with shouting and splashing would scare him,' Crab thought. 'I need to plan something different.' He tapped his chin with his smaller claw and began to think.

Crab opened his seagrass satchel and looked at his collection of seashells. Each one was smooth and pretty. 'I can use these to decorate,' he said. 'But I need help from a few quiet friends.' He decided to invite only friends who understood Anemone's shy ways. So he set off to find Snail and Starfish, who were both gentle and kind.

First, Crab visited Snail, who lived under a smooth rock. Snail had a cream and brown spiral shell with a blue ribbon tied around it. His amber eyes smiled from the ends of his long eyestalks. 'Snail,' said Crab, 'would you help me plan a quiet birthday party for Anemone?' Snail nodded slowly. 'I would love to,' he said in a soft voice.

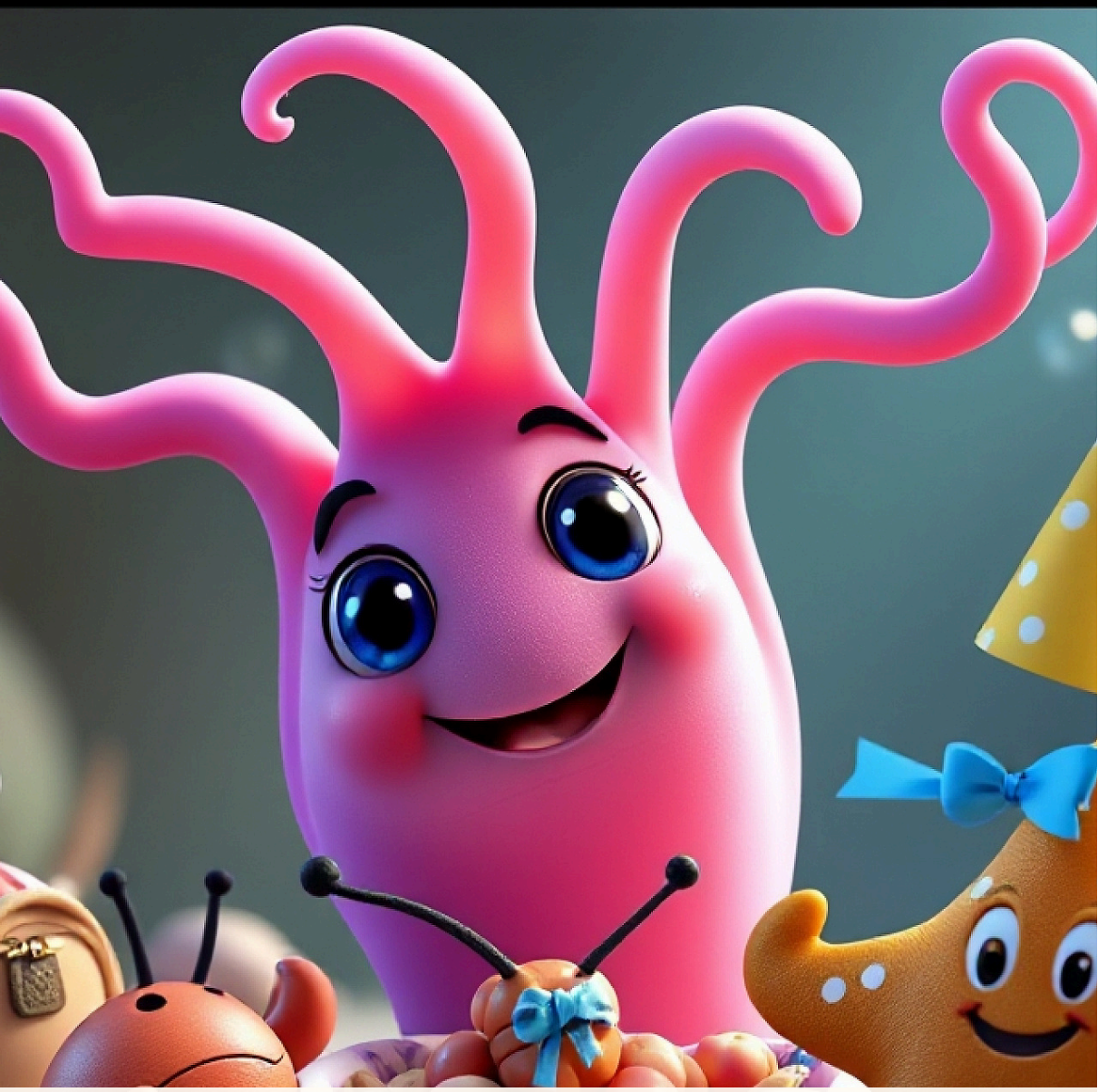
Next, Crab found Starfish resting on a warm rock. Starfish was orange with rounded arms and tiny white dots. He wore a little yellow paper party hat that made him look cheerful. 'Starfish,' said Crab, 'can you help with a quiet party for Anemone?' Starfish beamed. 'Yes! I will bring gentle bubbles and move very slowly,' he promised.

That evening, the three friends met near Anemone's home while Anemone slept. They planned every detail. 'We will use seashells to make a soft path,' said Crab. 'And I will blow tiny bubbles that float up slowly,' said Starfish. 'I will speak in a whisper and keep everything calm,' said Snail. They all agreed that a quiet party would be perfect.

The next morning, Crab woke up early. He swam to a quiet spot behind a coral arch, where Anemone would not see them setting up. Snail arrived with a basket of smooth seashells. Starfish carried a special bubble wand made from a hollow reed. 'Let's decorate softly,' Crab said. 'No loud noises, just gentle fun.' They worked together, placing seashells in a pretty pattern.

Crab arranged the seashells in a small circle. Snail placed a tiny pearl in the center as a gift. Starfish blew gentle bubbles that floated up like tiny balloons. The bubbles shimmered in the soft light. 'It looks beautiful,' whispered Snail. Crab smiled. 'Anemone will love this,' he said. They finished decorating and stood back to admire their quiet creation.

Then Crab went to fetch Anemone. 'Good morning, Anemone,' he said gently. 'Would you come for a little swim with me?' Anemone peeked out, his tentacles curling slightly. He trusted Crab, so he nodded and followed. As they swam, Anemone noticed the soft bubbles and the seashell path. His dark blue eyes grew wide with wonder.



When Anemone saw the small, calm party, his tentacles uncurled with happiness. 'Oh!' he gasped softly. 'Is this for me?' Crab nodded. 'Happy birthday, Anemone.' Snail and Starfish smiled and waved. The bubbles floated around them like tiny stars. Anemone felt safe and loved. He had never had a party that felt so right for him.

The friends sat together in the quiet circle. Starfish blew more gentle bubbles. Snail told a soft story about a little wave that traveled far. Crab gave Anemone the tiny pearl. 'It's beautiful,' Anemone whispered. 'Thank you for understanding.' They all shared a small seaweed cake that Crab had made. It was a peaceful, happy party, just right for Anemone.

As the party went on, Anemone's tentacles waved gently with joy. He did not hide or curl up once. 'This is the best birthday ever,' he said. 'You knew just what I would like.' Crab smiled. 'That's what friends do,' he said. 'They think about what makes you happy.' Snail and Starfish nodded in agreement. The water around them was calm and full of friendship.

After the party, the friends cleaned up the seashells and popped the bubbles. Anemone kept the pearl close. 'I will remember this day always,' he said. Crab gave him a gentle pat with his claw. 'I'm glad you liked it,' he said. They promised to have quiet adventures together often. The ocean felt warm and friendly as they said goodbye.

From that day on, Crab always remembered to think about what his friends liked best. Anemone felt braver, knowing he had friends who cared. Snail and Starfish agreed that a quiet party was the best kind. And whenever the water was calm, they would gather again, sharing stories and gentle bubbles, happy in their thoughtful friendship.